(b) the original project schedule for completion and commissioning of the project; and

(c) the present status of the project, *viz.* construction and tentative date of commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with NTPC on 18.2.2002 for exploring possibilities of setting up Joint Venture Captive Power Plant. Indian Railways have formed Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company on 22.11.2007 in Joint Venture with NTPC for setting up 1000 MW capacity power plant at Nabinagar.

(b) The original project scheduled for completion and commissioning was by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) The Contract of main plant (Steam and Turbine) has been placed on 22.01.2008. Out of 1400 Acre land, 750 Acre land has been acquired on date and balance is expected to be acquired by the end of October, 2009. The plant is expected to be operational by beginning of Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Present status of Kuttanad package in Kerala

*407. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority has approved the Kuttanad package in Kerala based on the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Report;

(b) if so, the present status including the schemes sanctioned and the schemes suggested for redrafting;

(c) whether the unique ecosystem prevailing in the Kuttanad area will be considered and the report will be taken as a package for the purpose of implementation;

(d) if so, whether special assistance for implementation of the package will be granted with reasonably relaxed guidelines; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support involving financial outlay of Rs. 1,840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions suggested by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system.

(b) Government of Kerala has so far submitted 41 projects amounting to Rs. 399.11 crores under Kuttanad package. Ministry of Environment and Forests has sanctioned one project relating to measures for augmenting biodiversity in the backwaters involving an amount of Rs. 37.85 lakhs of which Rs. l5.75 lakh has been released during 2008-09. Ministry of Water Resources has approved a research study by IIT, Chennai involving amount of Rs. 35 lakh for

studying the "Modernization of Thanneermukkom Bund and for improving the efficiency of Thottappally Spillway" in June, 2009. Government of Kerala has been requested to revise the projects in respect of 11 projects involving amount of Rs. 166.25 crore to make it in conformity with the extant guidelines of the schemes of Government of India under which the project is proposed to be funded. Government of Kerala has been advised to place one proposal relating to agriculture mechanization involving an amount of Rs. 85.00 crore before the State Level Sanctioning Committee under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for consideration. Government of Kerala has recently submitted 5 revised projects involving amount of Rs. 105.65 crore to the concerned Ministries/Department of Government of India for consideration. 16 projects involving amount of Rs. 22.70 crore relating to development of livestock and Fisheries activities require certain clarifications from the Government of Kerala. On receipt of clarifications, these project proposals will be placed before the Empowered Committee of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for approval of deviations from the prescribed guidelines of the concerned schemes. In respect of one project involving Rs. 91.53 crore relating to irrigation and water resources development, Government of Kerala has been advised to prepare the project proposal in an integrated manner covering entire river basin or a tributary or a major segment of the river/region, as the case may be and forward one set of project to Central Water Commission (CWC) for techno economic appraisal. After obtaining technical clearances from CWC, the proposals are to be submitted through CWC conforming to detailed guidelines after obtaining all mandatory clearances of Planning Commission and making necessary budget provision in annual budget (for central as well as state's share) for availing central assistance under Flood Management Programme. Further, Government of Kerala has been requested to provide certain clarifications in respect of 7 projects involving amount of Rs. 29.25 crore.

(c) to (e) MSSRF was assigned the study for preservation and development of Kuttanad wetlands in Alappuzha district with a request to make specific recommendations on strengthening of the ecological security of the Kuttanad wetland Eco-system and expanding sustainable livelihood opportunities for the people of the area. The approved package for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system is based on the recommendations made by the MSSRF. The programmes/interventions under the approved package are to be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India within their existing schemes and funding pattern. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has a mechanism to approve certain acceptable deviations from the existing schemes for programmes/interventions relating to livestock and fisheries sector proposed under the package. No further relaxation to the guidelines of extant schemes of Government of India is envisaged for implementation of approved programmes/interventions. Government of Kerala, after identifying the programmes/interventions to be undertaken under the package is to submit Detailed Project Reports for such programmes/interventions to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the

Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines/procedures for such schemes for sanction and release of necessary funds. The approved package also stipulates that the programmes/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs. 50 lakhs will be implemented by the State Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

Quality testing of food served in hotels and dhabas

†*408. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the test of the quality of food served at hotels and dhabas is not carried out by Government from time to time;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report of the survey carried out by the Indian Toxicology Research Institute, Lucknow in 2008 according to which dye Sudan-I and Sudan- 4, which are dangerous for health, have been used to adulterate red chilly powder used in several dhabas; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government against the companies producing adulterated spices and dhabas which use them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food Health Authorities of the State/U.T. Governments. The enforcement staff of the Food Health Authorities draw random samples of different food articles from all sources *viz.* manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and also from hotels and dhabas and get them analysed to see whether the samples confirm to the standards laid down under the PFA Rules, 1955 and other provisions of PFA Act, 1954.

Survey studies conducted at Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Lucknow, showed presence of harmful dyes, Sudan-1 and Sudan-4 in non-branded loose chilly powder samples with a range of 0.2-11.7 mg./g. but none of the branded chilly powder samples were found to contain these dyes. None of these chilly powder samples were taken from dhabas/hotels.

Action against persons engaged in such adulteration of food items is taken by the concerned State Governments under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954.

Adverse effect of less rain in agricultural production

†*409. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural production is likely to be affected adversely due to shortage of rainfall in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.